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February 28, 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Meeting of the Special Group (CI)  
2 p.m., Thursday, February 28, 1963

PRESENT: Mr. Johnson, Mr. Gilpatric, Mr. Bell, General Taylor,  
Mr. McCone, Mr. Murrow, Mr. Forrestal

Mr. Bundy was present for Mr. Gilpatric during Item 1.

Gov. Williams and Mr. Komer were also present for Item 1.

Mr. Bowling was present for Item 2.

1. Internal Security Assessment for Africa

Gov. Williams circulated a memorandum relating to his comments regarding the Internal Security Assessment for Africa, discussing the contents of the former in detail. In consonance with NSAM 114, which calls for periodic reports on the results of the assessment, he has designated an officer to maintain a continuous review of the subject matter. In noting the report it was agreed by the members that the Internal Security Assessment does not at the present time reveal any problems requiring the continued cognizance of the Group.

However, the members expressed concern with Soviet efforts relative to student groups, and agreed that further attention should be directed toward our own programs in this field. General Taylor observed that the training of foreign students in the United States provides the best possible dividend, dollar for dollar, of any program of which he is aware. Mr. Murrow commented on the current emphasis on professional training throughout the underdeveloped areas of Africa, as compared to the development of manual and technical skills. Too many students are said to be studying intellectual subjects, which will not provide them with employment, thus leaving them dissatisfied with the society and susceptible to subversion. Mr. Murrow characterized a current Nigerian technical school as an example of what should be emphasized in other countries as well.

The discussion concluded with a comment by Mr. Bell that our general policy on internal security assistance for African countries should be to look to the respective Metropolises to continue their current aid, and to provide United States assistance only as required by circumstances.

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2. Progress Report on the Internal Defense Plan for Iran

Mr. Bowling discussed with the members the current progress report, noting that earlier threats to internal security have been greatly diminished through recent actions of the Shah relating to land reform. As a result there are no insurgency focal points at this time. Mr. Bowling observed, however, that the success of land reform will in itself inspire additional problems which if not resolved may serve to produce new threats. He stressed the value of the police riot control program and the necessity of maintaining high police and military morale and efficiency. He also noted that the U. S. Government may be called upon to provide increased economic assistance in order to fill the gap created by lower agricultural production which probably will follow the land reform in the short term.

In the meantime the Embassy is encouraging the Iranian Government to pay increasingly greater attention to good relations with the Kurdish minority group. In its foreign relations we are encouraging Iran to maintain a friendly attitude toward the new government in Baghdad.

In noting the progress report the members agreed that Mr. Bundy will review the status of the September 29 request from the country team for five additional warrant officers skilled in riot control, to augment the current advisory personnel working with the MAP supported gendarmerie. Mr. Bell noted that decision on the request for an advisor on mounted police riot control techniques is pending resolution of a difference of opinion as to the value of mounted forces for this task.

The Chairman informed the members that as police support programs for Iran were of particular interest to the President last spring, he will have a memorandum prepared to inform the President of the progress made in this field during the past year.

3. Civic Action Programs Funded for Fiscal Year 1963

The report on civic action programs funded for FY 1963, required by NSAM 119, was noted following discussion as to the definition of civic action used by the drafting officers. It was observed that a number of the items, such as hamlet kits and radios, do not fall into the classical definition, which relates to military forces performing nation-building tasks, which simultaneously work to improve their public image with the indigenous peoples. It was also observed that there are yet few programs in either the Near East or Africa.

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The Chairman stated that as the report indicates significant progress since the previous year he will have a memorandum prepared for the President.

Miscellaneous

A. Mr. Murrow informed the members that USIA has just completed a film on civic action programs in Ecuador, and that it will soon be available for use elsewhere to demonstrate how civic action can be used in nation-building projects.

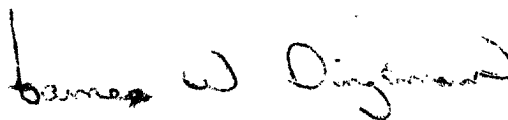
B. The Chairman announced that Mr. Niles Bond, former Deputy Chief of Mission in Brazil, will succeed Dr. Landon on March 11 as coordinator of the Interdepartmental Seminar.

It was agreed, following a suggestion by Mr. Forrestal, that it would be desirable to review attendance at the seminar in terms of the students selected for the course (their subsequent assignments abroad) and those who have gone abroad to key positions in under-developed countries without having taken the course.

The Chairman and others observed that the seminar may be too long, and that perhaps it could be reduced in length. A continuing problem relative to subject matter is the heterogeneous nature of the group of students. They include officers with many years of service abroad, and those who have recently entered the Government, without such prior experience abroad.

C. It was agreed that the normal requirement for circulation of reports in advance of meetings should be 48 hours, in order to provide additional time for their review, but with a minimum of 24 hours in special cases.

D. The Group noted that Defense is ready to proceed with the production of the police military training film for use in Latin America. Mr. Gilpatric indicated approval of the project.



for  
Thomas W. Davis, Jr.  
Executive Secretary

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